

Message Text

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FOLLOWING REPEAT BANGKOK 1502 SENT ACTION SECSTATE INFO USUN
NEW YORK, NEW DELHI & ROME DATED 27 JANUARY 1975:

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS:ESCAP:EAGR

SUBJ: RED:ESCAP REGIONAL FOOD SECURITY SCHEME

ROME PLEASE PASS FODAG

1. SUMMARY: ESCAP SECRETARIAT PROPOSING A REGIONAL FOOD PLAN
AT 31ST SESSION WHICH CALLS FOR CREATION OF A REGIONAL COUNCIL
TO RUN A FOOD SECURITY PROGRAM CONSISTING INITIALLY OF ABOUT
2-3 MILLION TONS OF FOOD GRAINS. END SUMMARY.

2. EXECUTIVE SECRETARY MARAMIS CALLED ON KAWAKATSU CHIEF JOINT
ESCAP/FAO AGRICULTURE DIVISION DURING ADVISORY COMMITTEE OF
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PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVES MEETING JANUARY 23 FOR SUMMARIZATION

OF PROPOSED ESCAP REGIONAL FOOD SECURITY SCHEME WHICH APPEARS BELOW. DRAFT PROGRAM TO BE PRESENTED AT 31ST SESSION NEW DELHI FOR ADOPTION. ESCAP HAS FEBRUARY 15 DEADLINE FOR REGIONAL MEMBER INPUTS TO DRAFT PLAN. MR. LEEKS, CHIEF COMMODITIES DIVISION FAO ROME, CURRENTLY ASSISTING AGRICULTURE DIVISION TO COMPLETE DRAFT PLAN OF ACTION.

3. RESUME OF REGIONAL FOOD SECURITY SCHEME DRAFT FOLLOWS. SEVEN PAGE, NINETEEN PARAGRAPH DOCUMENT DIVIDED INTO SEVEN SECTIONS VIZ BACKGROUND, NEED FOR REGIONAL ACTION, OBJECTIVES, INSTITUTIONAL ARRANGEMENTS, REGIONAL FOOD SECURITY COUNCIL (RFSC), REGIONAL FOOD SECURITY PROGRAM (RFSP), AND SCALE OF OPERATIONS.

4. BACKGROUND: CITED WORLD FOOD CONFERENCE MANDATE AND REVIEWED PROFILE OF STOCKS AND FLOWS OF FOOD ASSISTANCE TO LDCS. NOTED ESTABLISHMENT OF SEVERAL INSTITUTIONAL MECHANISMS.

5. NEED FOR REGIONAL ACTION: VIEW SERIOUSNESS OF FOOD SHORTAGES PLAN NOTES REQUIREMENT FOR ESTABLISHING SYSTEM OF REGIONAL FOOD SECURITY. ON STREAM OR PROPOSED INSTITUTIONS CANNOT BE EXPECTED, BY THEMSELVES, TO ARREST PROBLEM.

6. OBJECTIVES: DRAFT PLAN CITES THREE OBJECTIVES: (A) PROVIDE FOOD TO COUNTRIES FACED WITH EMERGENCIES ON GRANT BASIS OR SOFT TERM LOANS, (B) RAISE LEVEL OF REGIONAL COOPERATION IN SUPPLYING AGRICULTURAL PRODUCE FROM EXPORT ESCAP REGIONAL MEMBERS TO IMPORTING NEIGHBORS ON READY PAYMENT BASIS AND/OR MEDIUM TERM LOANS OR BARTER DEALS, AND (C) ASSIST FOOD SURPLUS ESCAP COUNTRIES TO DISPOSE OF STOCKS TO NEEDY COUNTRY OR TO DIVERT STOCKS TO STORAGE.

7. INSTITUTIONAL ARRANGEMENTS: CREATION OF TWO INSTITUTIONS RECOMMENDED TO ACHIEVE ABOVE OBJECTIVES VIZ REGIONAL FOOD SECURITY COUNCIL (RFSC) AND REGIONAL FOOD SECURITY PROGRAM (RFSP).

8. REGIONAL FOOD SECURITY COUNCIL WILL BE SUPREME REGIONAL BODY TO REVIEW, PLAN ACTION, LAY DOWN GUIDELINES, COORDINATE ALL ACTION AGENTS AND LIAISE WITH APPROPRIATE INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS. MEMBERSHIP IS OPEN TO ALL ESCAP MEMBERS. COUNCIL UNCLASSIFIED

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FUNDING TO COME FROM INTERNATIONAL AGENCIES AND DONOR COUNTRIES.

9. REGIONAL FOOD SECURITY PROGRAM (RFSP) TO FUNCTION UNDER SUPERVISION RFSC. PROGRAM WILL BE ADMINISTERED BY GOVERNING BOARD CONSISTING OF DONOR COUNTRIES IN THE REGION, REGIONAL EXPORT COUNTRIES AND RECIPIENTS. THE BOARD MAY APPOINT ADMINISTRATOR. PROGRAM RESOURCES TO CONSIST OF EXISTING REGIONAL

SOURCES OF FOOD AND FUNDS, CONTRIBUTIONS IN KIND FROM MEMBER COUNTRIES, GRANTS FROM DC'S AND LOW/FREE INTEREST LOANS FROM IFIS. PROGRAM SEEKS MINIMUM OPERATING POOL OF FOOD COMMODITIES PER ANNUM AS OPPOSED TO ONE SHOT CONTRIBUTIONS.

10. SCALE OF OPERATIONS: TWO TO THREE MILLION TONS OF BASIC FOOD GRAINS (RICE, WHEAT AND OTHER COARSE GRAINS) IS IMMEDIATE GOAL. (KAWAKATSU ESTIMATE COSTS AROUND \$500 MILLION). STATED LEVEL OF MAGNITUDE REPRESENTS APPROXIMATELY TEN PERCENT OF TOTAL IMPORTS IN RECENT YEARS OF ESCAP REGIONAL MEMBERS EXCLUDING JAPAN, WHICH IS A MAJOR IMPORTER.

11. COMMENT: DRAFT PLAN FIRST MEASURABLE INDICATOR OF JOINT ESCAP/FAO AGRICULTURE DIVISION PROGRESS, BESIDES STAFF RECRUITMENT. IN REACTION TO WORLD FOOD CONFERENCE MANDATE. COPIES REGIONAL FOOD SECURITY SCHEME POUCHED TO STOCKS IO/CMD. WASHINGTON COMMENTS REQUESTED PRIOR NEXT ACPR MEETING FEBRUARY 18. KINTNER UNQTE KISSINGER

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